



VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, Village of Elwood, February 5, 2020, at 7:00 PM, was called to order by Village President Doug Jenco.

Present: Village Board President Doug Jenco, Village Board Trustees: Michael Varman, Tricia Maas, Joe Berscheid, Jodie Bertucci and Ron Schmidt

Also, Present: Village Administrator/Village Clerk Julie Friebele, Police Chief Fred Hayes, Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar, and Attorney Jordan Kielian

Not Present: Trustee Darryl Lab

The Meeting Opened with the Pledge to the Flag

Presentations and Public Hearings

There were no presentations or public hearings.

Public Comments – Pertaining to Agenda Items

Members of the audience did not have public comments pertaining to the agenda items.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Presentation of Minutes – January 8, 2020

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report January 4, 2020 through January 7, 2020, in the amount of \$1,257.23.

Presentation of Bills – Paid Invoice Report January 9, 2020 through January 24, 2020, in the amount of \$5,245.15.

Presentation of Bills – Unpaid Invoice Report in the amount of \$155,058.89.

Trustee Schmidt seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes. The motion carried.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Administration – Village Administrator Julie Friebele

December 2019 Financial Report

The December 2019 Financial Report prepared by Finance Director Robbie Day was presented to the Village Board for review. The report was also examined by the Finance Committee at the meeting held on January 28, 2020. The report represents the Village of Elwood's year to date revenues, expenses, and end of the month fund cash balances.

A Resolution Authorizing the Participation in the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) and Authorizing the Village Administrator Approve a Contract With the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for a Period up to 36 Months

NIMEC has extensive expertise in the northern Illinois power market. Also, NIMEC manages a buying collaborative, aggregating the collective power of 123 municipalities, as well as 47 library/park district/water districts. The collective volume of the buying collaborative (\$20 to \$25 million/year) allows NIMEC to negotiate rates that are lower than what an individual municipality could negotiate on their own. The Village has enjoyed a good working relationship with NIMEC as its broker since 2008. NIMEC is paid by the electric supplier for originating the business. The Village does not compensate NIMEC and is not under contract with NIMEC. The resolution pertains to the purchase of electricity for the village operated water pumping facilities. Prices within the commodity markets (including electricity) are constantly fluctuating. Therefore, NIMEC's bid prices are only good for the day they are provided. As such, if the board delegates signing authority to the Village's Administrator to accept a bid by entering into a contractual relationship with the winning power supplier the Village Administrator will have the authority to do so. A motion was made by Trustee Schmidt to adopt a resolution authorizing the participation in the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) and authorizing the Village Administrator approve a contract with the lowest cost electricity provider for a period up to 36 months. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes. The motion carried.

An Ordinance Abating the Tax Hereto Levied for the Year 2019 to Pay the Principal of and Interest on \$4,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010B

The taxes levied for the year 2019 for the Principal of Interest on \$4,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010B balloon payment is in the amount of \$6,654,697.15. It is necessary and in the best interest of the Village that the tax heretofore levied for the year 2019 to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds be abated. In doing so, payments for this bond issue will not be placed on property tax bills. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to forego the final reading and to adopt an Ordinance Abating the Tax Hereto Levied for the Year 2019 to Pay the Principal of and Interest on \$4,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010B. Trustee Maas seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes. The motion carried.

An Ordinance Amending Section 91.05 of the Village of Elwood's Code of Ordinances to Allow Chickens on Certain Residential Properties

The Village established guidelines for the control of animals within the community prohibiting any farm animal or livestock to be kept upon certain residential properties. Many residents contacted the Village requesting an amendment to our current Village code and to allow for chickens to be kept on certain residential properties. Raising your own chickens is a great way to improve the health of your family by providing organic eggs with no added hormones and chickens are a natural source of pest control. The proposed ordinance amending Section 91.05 of the Village code would provide that residential chickens are permitted in single family Residential Districts subject to regulations. Some of the regulations contained in the proposed ordinance include the placement and upkeep of enclosures and coops, number of chickens, and the storage of feed. Discussion ensued regarding chicken coop building requirements and ground fencing. The Ordinance was presented as a "First Read", no action was taken.

A Resolution for the Adoption of a Personnel Manual

The Village's Personnel Manual was adopted December 19, 2012, and contains many inconsistencies and conflicts. Months ago we began the process of obtaining a true Human Resources Manual subject to our respective departments, current Collective Bargaining Agreements, and tailored specifically for the Village of Elwood to govern the rights and responsibilities for the employees. A motion was made by Trustee Berscheid to adopt a Resolution for the Adoption of a Personnel Manual

Trustee Maas seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes. The motion carried.

Elwood/Jackson History Club Donation Request

Annually the Elwood/Jackson History Club submits a letter to the Village Board requesting a monetary donation in support of the club. They collect pictures, newspaper clippings and additional information pertaining to the community and then they record and file them in the archives. The Elwood/Jackson History Club is also planning to participate in another Route 66 event in May. A motion was made by Trustee Bertucci to make a donation to the Elwood/Jackson History Club in the amount of \$500.00. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. A vote was called: Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes. The motion carried.

Police Department – Chief Fred Hayes

During the month of December 2019

The Elwood Police Department responded to 605 calls for service.
For more details concerning the types of calls, residents can visit the Village of Elwood website.

Police officers issued a total of 285 citations:

- Local Citations (O.V.) 7
- State Citations 278
- Overweight Violations (7)
- Year to date total 4040

Arrest Report Summary:

- Traffic Arrests 30
- Warrant Arrests 4
- Criminal 1

TRAINING REPORT:

OFFICER	CLASS	DATE	Hours
Tony Lohmar	Interview and Interrogation	12/2-4/19	24
Sean Swabowski	Basic Police Academy	12/17/19	560
Tony Lohmar	Active Shooter	12/27-28/19	16
Ethan Anderson	Juvenile Officers Certification	12/27-28/19	16

Total Training Hours: 616

Public Works – Director of Public Works Larry Lohmar

Well 8 Improvements:

Layne will be onsite starting March 2, 2020, to install the well pump. It will take approx. 1 week to complete. After the pump install, and final termination of electric cables, the well head will get done. Upon completion of the pump installation Layne will perform the pump test.

Well 8 Control House:

All electrical equipment has been delivered along with the generator and is installed. We are waiting for ComEd to supply service.

Ice Skating Rink:

The ice-skating rink was removed because of warm temperatures.

Noel & Brandon Roads Water and Sewer:

The pressure testing and chlorination of the new water main has been completed, and the line is ready to be placed in service.

Snow Plowing:

Public works crews have been working overtime to keep the roads clear of snow and ice. We spread approximately 236 tons of salt and plowed 1,380 lane miles of roadways.

Village Clerk – Julie Friebele

Senior Services

The Village received a letter of thanks from the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and seniors, for supporting Senior Services with a donation in the amount of \$500.00. Senior Services of Will County is a not for profit agency that engages more than 15,000 older adults each year, helping them live safe, healthy and independent lives.

St. Louis Street Reconfiguration

On January 8th the Village Board adopted Resolution #2020-03 to authorize the commitment of local funds needed to match federal motor fuel funds (MFT) for the completion of St. Louis Street realignment. IDOT received bids in the January 17, 2020, Letting. Based on the "As-Accepted" Tabulation of Bids, the low bidder was P.T. Ferro Construction Co. in the amount of \$2,572,559.89. The engineer's estimated bid for this project was \$3,200,000.00. The bid came in under the estimated projected cost by \$627,440.11. The Village does not have any objections and concurs in the awarding of this project to the low bidder P.T. Ferro Construction Co.

Public Hearing Notice – Central States Tower

Notice was published in the Wilmington Free Press on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, regarding a Public Hearing to be held before the Village of Elwood Planning Commission on February 25, 2020, at 7:00 pm at the Elwood Village Hall. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear comments for consideration of a special use to permit the construction of 150' monopole cell tower on approximately 75' x 75' lease area and access and utility easements for the operation of a Telecommunication Facility ('cellular tower') in an I-1 Industrial District at the property commonly known as: 26562 S. Elwood International Port Road, Elwood, Illinois 60421.

General Primary Election

The General Primary Election Day is March 17, 2020. The Village of Elwood is once again participating as an early voting location for all Will County residents. Early voting at the Village Hall is available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 am – 4:00 pm beginning on March 2, 2020, and ending March 13, 2020. The Will County Clerk is seeking registered voters to apply to be an Election Judge in preparation for the March 17, 2020, General Primary and the November 3, 2020, General Election. Please contact the Will County Clerk's office for additional information.

Elwood Community Days

The Village of Elwood is making preparations for our 30th Elwood Days Celebration on August 21, 22, and 23, 2020. This year's theme is "Time Marches On". This is a very important event for our community as well as the surrounding communities. This event provides a festival for neighbors, friends, and families to gather, share and enjoy the festivities which include a parade, carnival, music, food and fireworks. Carnival ride mega passes are available now at the Village Hall for \$50.00. The mega passes will be available at the gate for \$75.00.

Waste Management At Your Door

In addition to weekly refuse pick up the Village of Elwood residents have a service called At Your Door. This service collects items that are not discarded with the weekly refuse. In general, most ordinary household chemicals and many electronics are eligible for At Your Door collection. Only items originating from households are eligible, no business materials are allowed. Console TV's and similar consumer electronics are eligible unless they originate from a business. Elwood residents can call At Your Door 800-449-7857 to schedule a pick up of your unwanted items. The contact information can also be found on the Village of Elwood's website.

Summary for Collection Date 12-5-2019:

- Total pounds collected: 242.32
- Total pounds sent for recycling: 188.48

2020 US Census

The start of the 2020 Census is fast approaching and Illinoisans have much to lose without an accurate count of all our residents. Illinois was historically undercounted in 2010.

In mid-March, homes will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail.

The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade.

Elwood Preschool Open House and Registration

Preschool registration began on Wednesday, February 5th. There are two (2) program options available and registration is on a first come first serve basis.

- 4 year old program is five (5) days per week
- 3 year old program is three (3) days per week

Please contact the Elwood School office for additional information 815-423-5588.

Village Upcoming Meetings in February

Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 25th at 4:00 pm

Planning and Zoning Meeting on Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00 pm

Village President – Doug Jenco

Thank you to the public works department, you do a great job in our Village.

The office staff is working diligently on the budget and is cutting the expenditures as much as possible.

The Police Department works tirelessly monitoring the streets and keeping our Village safe, thank you Chief Hayes and staff.

We put a committee together to promote all the good, positive things in Elwood. The committee consists of individuals from:

- Elwood School Board
- Jackson Township
- Elwood Baseball
- Village Trustees

We are reaching out to the Twilighters, History Club, and Elwood Fire to join the committee in promoting Elwood.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Public Comments

A member of the audience discussed opposition to the NorthPoint Development.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Varman to go into closed session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employee(s), appointment of a Village Official. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Berscheid to reconvene open session. Trustee Bertucci seconded the motion. A vote was called: Village President Jenco – yes, Trustee Maas – yes, Trustee Varman – yes, Trustee Berscheid – yes, Trustee Schmidt – yes, Trustee Bertucci – yes. The motion carried.

Actions To Be Taken Following The Closed Session Meeting

No actions were taken.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Maas to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Varman seconded the motion. All the Village Board Trustees present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Julie Friebele, Village Clerk